



CAPTAIN JOSEPH HOUSE FOUNDATION

The Captain Joseph House Foundation is the first of its kind respite House in the Nation, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation created to lend support for Gold Star Veteran Families of our military's Fallen Heroes. A total of five Houses strategically placed throughout the country are planned. The mission is simple, yet meets a deeply needed level of compassion that has been missing for many of these Families who are most impacted by their loss. With both volunteer and paid staff, donation funding and inspiration, our Foundation will ensure a place of respite for the Families of our Fallen and coming from all branches of the military to gather. The program will provide a continuum of care for their personal healing; Family-to-Family in a home-away-from-home.

This respite retreat will take place in a beautiful 1910 Tudor Style craftsman house located in Port Angeles, Washington. Previously the house was an award winning Bed and Breakfast owned, operated and then donated to the Foundation by the Foundation's creator, Betsy Reed Schultz. Captain Joseph House became a concept following the death of Betsy's son, Captain Joseph William Schultz, in Afghanistan on May 29, 2011, Memorial Day Weekend. Captain Schultz, a decorated Army Green Beret Special Ops Detachment Commander, was mortally wounded leading his troops when struck down by an IED. Two of his team, their Afghanistan interpreter and their canine also were killed that day. Captain Schultz's driver survived the explosion.

While confronting her own grief, mourning her loss and spending time with the families of his team she decided the former Inn would be a perfect place for Gold Star Veteran Families to gather at a future time following the death of their loved one. A family trip, a holiday tradition, an anniversary are some of those challenging times in the aftermath of such a loss that families face head-on to this very real alteration to one's family life. These events can also be one of the most healing opportunities for a family to regroup, create new memories and begin new traditions or build on existing ones, without the physical presence of their loved one; yet always with them in their hearts. This continuum of care will be in addition to existing assistance Families receive through their Veteran and local military, religious or community social service organizations. What appeared to be missing for Gold Star Veteran Families of the Fallen was an opportunity to take an extended break from the daily reminders at work and at home, to experience an environment where new friendships can take root and strength drawn from a common experience in the quiet and peace of a home away from their home that may always carry heart-rending memories.

Captain Schultz was commended for his belief and practice of 'leading from the front'. In honor of her son, and the more than 7,100 men and women who have died in combat since 9/11 and their Families who have also made this ultimate sacrifice for our country, Betsy decided to continue his "lead from the front" practice. With her career background in education and social services, a decade in the hospitality industry and a deep commitment to provide support and comfort to families, her vision of need was set

into motion with a goal to transform the Inn to a respite House. Betsy has dedicated her time and energy to developing this transformation.

Families of our Fallen will have their transportation provided to and from the Captain Joseph House, as well as during their respite. The House will be open eleven months of the year with up to three families visiting at the same time. Families will arrive on Sunday and return to their homes on the following Friday of each week. They will have the benefit of a place of retreat while communing with the beauty that the North Olympic Peninsula offers; in a House that provides a relaxed and comfortable setting. It literally will be a chance to reflect in a tranquil and peaceful environment with other Families, look toward the future and honor the Fallen by living the life we have been given through our losses.

One key to the successful operation of Captain Joseph House is the renovation of what were five bedrooms into three guest rooms to accommodate the Families. Volunteers have committed more than 13,000 hours of work on the House! As well, the kitchen has been doubled in size, a new and bright sunroom added and a deck overlooking the beauty of the area will complement the restful and peaceful nature of the House and renovated grounds.

We believe the heart of many homes is in the kitchen as it will be in Captain Joseph House. The remodel of the existing kitchen will offer a warm, cozy place to gather and share. Staff will assist Families in preparing meals during their visit. The kitchen will always be open should one need a cup of tea or a snack anytime while in residence. Picnic lunches will be prepared for extended day trips around the Peninsula. There will be no cost to the Families for their respite retreat.

Volunteers, communities and businesses from Washington, DC, Florida, No Carolina, Texas, Oregon, California, and Nevada, have given time and donations; knowing they have Gold Star Veteran Families in their towns who will want to meet other Families at Captain Joseph House.

Volunteers and Families from these same states have traveled to Port Angeles and stayed with Betsy to provide work on the House or to begin their healing and sharing.

A Veteran and his wife have offered their property and home and are presently working on the due-diligence and finances needed to donate Captain Joseph House Midwest!

The Captain Joseph House Foundation is forging new horizons in extended care for the Gold Star Veteran Families of our Fallen Heroes. The House will offer them a place to begin anew; a renewal of that which provides goodness, peace and stability in their lives while providing time in working their way through a grieving that has become such an overshadowing element of their lives. As well, it will reflect an understanding that their fellow citizens acknowledge their loss and the sacrifice their loved one made for our country. Should this endeavor spark the slightest expression of relief for the Family members, the Foundation will have found its mission fulfilled.

We invite all of you throughout our country who would like to join us in this mission to contact the Foundation through Betsy Reed Schultz at 360-460-7848, CPTJosephHouse@cjh.org, through our website: <http://www.captainjosephhousefoundation.org/> or follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/CaptainJosephHouse>. (Rev.1/17)